

HONORING THE SESQUICENTEN-  
NIAL ANNIVERSARY OF TEX-  
ARKANA, TEXAS

**HON. NATHANIEL MORAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of Texarkana, Texas.

On December 8, 2023, the City of Texarkana celebrates its sesquicentennial anniversary—that's 150 years of bringing together the best that Texas and Arkansas have to offer. Two states, one city. It's twice as nice. And, it is a great place to call home. This remarkable milestone is a testament to the values, resilience, culture, and rich heritage of the citizens of Texarkana for fifteen decades.

Since its founding in 1873, Texarkana has grown from a small settlement along the Texas-Arkansas border to a thriving city that stands as a beacon of innovation, progress, and unity. The city's commitment to fostering a strong sense of community and preserving its unique State Line heritage is unsurpassed. From its vibrant manufacturing and industrial base, support for the Red River Army Depot, and its deep roots in agriculture to its investments in education, health care, technology, infrastructure, and planning, Texarkana stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared vision and a commitment to excellence.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the 150th anniversary of Texarkana's founding. Congratulations to Texarkana on this momentous milestone. May the next 150 years be filled with continued growth and prosperity. Happy anniversary, Texarkana.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES J. HARDY  
FOR BECOMING A KNIGHT OF  
THE LEGION OF FRANCE

**HON. GUY RESCENTIALER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Charles J. Hardy for being named a Knight of the Legion of Honor, France's highest civilian honor.

Hardy joined the 282nd Engineer Combat Battalion on July 16, 1943, and was one of many brave soldiers who risked their lives during the Second World War. He fought valiantly in the battle of Saint-Malo and captured enemy submarine pens throughout his time on the Western front. He also contributed to the liberation of the Ardennes, the Rhineland, Central Europe, and France. During these grueling campaigns, Hardy consistently demonstrated fearlessness and determination.

Today, Hardy will be remembered and honored for his courageous service 79 years ago by receiving France's highest honor.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA STATE  
UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL'S  
UNDEFEATED SEASON

**HON. NEAL P. DUNN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the undefeated Florida State University Seminole football team, who recently secured the 2023 ACC Championship title.

Under Head Coach Mike Norvell's leadership, the Seminoles are 13–0 despite a devastating injury that prematurely ended the collegiate career of Quarterback Jordan Travis. This team plays with their hearts, and it shows. Throughout this season, they've displayed incredible grit, determination, and perseverance even when the odds were against them.

Sadly, the College Football Playoff Selection Committee failed to recognize this team's incredible talent by excluding them from the 2023–24 College Football Playoffs. This was a devastating blow to the team and the city of Tallahassee, who proudly displayed the Seminole spirit all season.

It's a shame that an undefeated team, who earned every bit of their perfect season, won't get a shot in the College Football Playoffs. Make no mistake, Florida's Second Congressional District knows our Seminoles are champions even if the selection committee denies them a chance to prove it.

I congratulate Florida State University on a perfect season. I thank them for playing with their hearts and making our district proud. Go Noles.

RECOGNIZING KERREEN CONLEY'S  
SERVICE TO THE CITY OF  
BELLEVILLE

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kerreen Conley as she ends her twelve-year tenure as Mayor of the City of Belleville, Michigan after serving her local Wayne County community for over three decades. Her tremendous dedication to public service while also maintaining a full-time career is impressive and worthy of commendation.

Kerreen graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management before pursuing Master's degrees in Business Administration (MBA) and in Human Resources and Organizational Development from Eastern Michigan University. She began her decades of public service in 1990, working as Controller for the City of Ypsilanti before becoming Belleville City Manager in 1995 and Novi's Director of Developmental Services in 1998. Kerreen was successfully elected to the Belleville City Council in 2000, and was elected as the City's Mayor in late 2011. After serving three consecutive terms, she decided not to seek re-election and plans to dedicate her full attention to Human Resources Consulting when her political tenure draws to a close.

Kerreen can look back on an accomplished mayoral record that truly benefitted her community. Chief among her achievements is the preservation of essential city services, such as the Belleville District Library. The library, which is over a century old and sits in the heart of downtown Belleville, recently received some much-needed renovations that will ensure it can continue to serve tri-community residents for years to come. As mayor, Kerreen also served on the bipartisan Board of Directors of the Conference of Western Wayne alongside the chief elected officials of seventeen other member communities. She has chaired the Conference since January 2020, coordinating emergency services and working to alleviate countless other needs for an area encompassing 340 square miles and over 700,000 residents.

Perhaps most impressively, Kerreen was a dedicated mayor while simultaneously juggling various other demanding roles. She has been the Chief Executive Officer of RD Advisors, LLC for over a decade and served as Redford Township's Human Resources Director from 2014 through 2016 before assuming a similar role in Canton Township. Two years ago, she took on her current title of Senior Manager Human Resources Consultant at Rehmann. In addition to her time in local government and HR work, Kerreen has made many other significant contributions to our local community. She has dedicated herself to various organizations over the years, notably serving as an advisory board member at the Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan for seven years and being an avid fundraiser for various local non-profits, including the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Kerreen's devotion to serving the residents of Wayne County and beyond is nothing short of inspirational, and I am proud to have such a selfless individual leading our local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Kerreen Conley for her lifetime of dedication to serving Wayne County's local communities as she wraps up her tenure at the helm of the City of Belleville. For the last three decades, Kerreen has worked tirelessly to benefit those around her and has made significant contributions to preserving and providing invaluable local services. We thank her for her tremendous efforts, and wish her all the best as she embarks upon her next endeavor.

THANKING MY 2023 FALL INTERN  
CLASS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO  
ILLINOIS' 13TH DISTRICT

**HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound gratitude and appreciation for the incredible dedication and hard work of the interns who have supported our office during the 2023 fall semester. I have been honored to work with Madison Barr, Rochelle Williams, Thomas Greco, Jameel Muhammad, and Colin Bellows in my Washington office and Cameron Shivley in my Belleville office. Each of these special and talented individuals has brought new perspectives and an

incredible work ethic to our office. I am inspired by their dedication to service and helping the people of Central and Southern Illinois.

I thank Madison, Rochelle, Thomas, Jameel, Colin, and Cameron for their service. I wish them all the best as they continue their professional and academic journeys.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MIKE DAVIN AND HIS SERVICE TO THE FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF OHIO**

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff, Mike Davin, who will be leaving our office this week.

Hailing originally from Philadelphia, Mike has dedicated his career to public service. Mike has worked on behalf of the people of Ohio's Fifth District for the past ten years, where he moved up through the ranks from Intern to Legislative Director. He has worked tirelessly to advance common-sense energy policies, recognize deserving veterans, and streamline government regulations.

Recently, Mike was a critical part in ensuring members of the U.S. Army's 720th Military Police Battalion who served our nation in the Vietnam War received a Bronze Star for their service. As Legislative Director, Mike has instilled a sense of comradery in the office, showcasing the positive impact of working together.

Mike is a loving father and husband, and I know that as he enters this next chapter in his career, he will have the love of his family supporting him along the way.

I am eternally grateful for Mike's work on behalf of the District and our Nation, and I wish him and his family the best.

**RECOGNIZING THE TRAILBLAZING CONGRESSWOMAN DIANE WATSON IN CELEBRATION OF HER 90TH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate former Ambassador and Congresswoman Diane Watson's 90th birthday. Congresswoman Watson paved the way for the many Black female legislators, myself included, who would come after her. She is a true trailblazer, becoming the first Black female member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board and the first Black female California State Senator. Today we recognize her remarkable contributions to Los Angeles, the State of California, and the United States.

Born in Los Angeles, CA, Congresswoman Watson attended local Los Angeles public schools before earning her Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), her Master's degree in School Psychology from California State University at Los Angeles (Cal State LA), and

her PhD in Educational Administration from Claremont Graduate College.

Congresswoman Watson began her life of public service as an elementary school teacher and worked diligently up the ranks to become an assistant principal and a school psychologist, touching the lives of countless students. She also served as a Health Education Specialist for Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), at UCLA, and at Cal State LA. In 1975, distinguished members of the Los Angeles community encouraged her to seek election to the LAUSD School Board. She won her election, and in this role, she worked to expand school integration and to raise the rigor of academic standards for all students.

In 1978, Congresswoman Watson became the first Black woman elected to the California State Senate, where she served on the Senate Judiciary Committee and as Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee from 1981 through 1998. At the state level, she championed legislation for nutrition assistance programs, breast cancer research, and access to health care.

In 1999, President Clinton appointed Congresswoman Watson as the Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, where she helped stop illegal toxic waste from being dumped into surrounding waters. After her election to the House of Representatives in 2001, she served California's 33rd District faithfully for a decade, representing areas of Los Angeles that are now part of the 37th District.

Congresswoman Watson became a vocal leader on issues related to racism and xenophobia, supporting reparations for descendants of enslaved Americans, educational system reform, and a comprehensive overhaul of the nation's criminal justice system. She also called out the rise of Islamophobia following the 9/11 attacks. Her tenure as a legislator demonstrated a dedication to creating legislation and initiatives for the betterment of all.

Throughout her career, Congresswoman Watson was a trailblazer, building a legacy of mentorship, leadership, and strength for others to emulate in their own public service careers.

I am honored to commemorate her impact on communities throughout California and the United States. I hope you will join me in wishing Congresswoman Diane Watson a very happy birthday.

**RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MICHAEL SCHOEN FOR CANCER RESEARCH**

**HON. TROY BALDERSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Schoen, who recently became the first individual to raise over \$1 million for cancer research through the Pelotonia bike ride. Pelotonia is a two-day event where participants bike hundreds of miles through Central Ohio, raising money for cancer research at the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center—the James.

Michael has been a staunch supporter of cancer prevention and treatment initiatives throughout his entire life, having established the Herman Schoen Memorial Cancer Re-

search Endowment Fund in honor of his late grandfather and serving on the James Foundation Board at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center.

When his mother tragically passed away from small-cell lung cancer, Michael turned his grief into action. He rode in his first Pelotonia in 2010 and promised to ride every year until the battle against cancer is won or until he no longer can. Michael's commitment to finding a cure for cancer has become an inspiration to his community and to all those who know him. This year, Michael became the first individual rider in Pelotonia history to raise over \$1 million for cancer research, raising \$115,000 in 2023 alone, and was awarded the 2023 Pelotonia Legacy Award for his outstanding leadership.

On behalf of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate Michael Schoen on this amazing accomplishment. His incredible determination brings us one step closer to a cancer-free world and we will continue to support him on his journey in the years to come.

**OSCAR ORTIZ'S COMMENDATION**

**HON. DELIA C. RAMIREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and constituent, Oscar Ortiz, a devoted organizer and champion for educational equity. Oscar was a visionary: he fought for a just, inclusive future where everyone thrives. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, son, and respected member of the Illinois Third Congressional District community.

Born in our great City of Chicago on April 21, 1962, to Benito and Mirta Ortiz, Oscar dedicated his life to empowering our community through education. He believed that education was a powerful tool to build a just future. He knew education could unlock our collective potential and enable us to realize our dreams. With that in mind, Ortiz became an elementary and high school teacher, helping our young people find their power and joy in learning. Whether it was at Jahn and Lowell Elementary Schools or Jefferson Alternative School, el maestro Ortiz was always present for all his students, their parents, and faculty.

His desire to serve our community and defend public education in Chicago led him to join the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) in May 2003, where he quickly became a committed and active member, never missing a meeting or event. There, Oscar served as a sergeant-at-arms, as the Lowell delegate, and as a member of the Legislative Committees, always with the intention of advancing social justice and equity through education.

Oscar generously committed his time on earth to countless social justice causes. He believed in the power of organized communities and worked tirelessly to build a better future for Chicago and our nation. I, personally, will miss his calls to action and the way he could stir our passions and stoke our courage on the bullhorn at direct actions. May his passion for change and love of community always guide us. I will miss him dearly, and I know that countless others will, too. He was a true, loyal friend.